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- RYAN, J. A. *Alleged socialism of the church fathers.* (St. Louis, Mo.: B. Herder. 1913. Pp. 81. 50c.)
- SWANSSON, C. E. *Social wrongs and a practical remedy; a public property reserve.* (New York: Shakespeare Press. 1913. Pp. 87. 50c.)
- TRAUTWEIN, C. *Ueber Ferdinand Lassalle und sein Verhältnis zur Fichteschen Sozialphilosophie.* (Jena: Fischer. 1913. Pp. iii. 169. 5 M.)
- WATT, F. *The Allanforth commune. The triumph of socialism.* (London: National Labour Press. 1913. Pp. 200. 2s. 6d.)  
A novel dealing with the life and activities of a socialist colony.
- WEBB, S. and B. *Socialism.* (London: Longmans. 1914.)
- WEHBERG, H. *Die Bodenreform in Lichte des humanistischen Sozialismus.* (Munich: Duncker & Humblot. 1913. Pp. xiii, 170. 5 M.)
- WILLIAMS, A. *Co-partnership and profit-sharing.* (New York: Holt. 1913. Pp. 256. 50c.)

### Statistics and Its Methods

- Statistik und Gesellschaftslehre.* Vol. III. *Sozialstatistik.* Part I. *Moralstatistik.* Number IV. By GEORG VON MAYR. (Tübingen: J. C. B. Mohr. 1913. Pp. 577-659. 2.40 M.)

This little book is a small division of Dr. von Mayr's as yet uncompleted monumental work entitled, *Statistik und Gesellschaftslehre.* To be exact, it is the fourth number which has appeared of his Moral Statistics, which in turn constitutes the first part of his third volume on Social Statistics. In the preface, Dr. von Mayr states that the fifth number will mark the end of his discussion of moral statistics. He took up criminal statistics in the second number, has continued the treatment in the third and fourth, and promises to finish the disquisition in this fifth number which has yet to appear. So much by way of orientation.

In this particular number, Dr. von Mayr considers statistics of crimes—statistics wherein the unit is the crime, not the criminal. He rightly takes the position that one of the tasks of criminal statistics is to make clear the burden which society bears as the result of anti-social acts. Statistics collected with the criminal as the unit do not, as can be clearly shown, portray this circumstance. Running all through this number is an undercurrent of criticism directed towards governments and officials who, for the most part, have failed to realize this. He has really given us a detailed outline of an ideal organization of this branch of criminal statistics. To an American who knows the woeful lack of

criminal statistics in this country it all seems like a far-off dream. Still we are assured that the age of miracles is not passed, and it may be that in the near future we shall witness the curious spectacle of our various governmental officials perusing these pages with the grim determination of organizing at least one branch of criminal statistics in a thoroughgoing way.

An interesting side-light on the difficulty of interpreting the criminal statistics of a foreign government is furnished by Dr. von Mayr's analysis of the German practice of compilation. One learns, in the first place, that the so-called German Criminal Statistics deal with but two of the three groups of crimes against the laws of the Empire. The minor crimes (*Uebertretungen*) are not considered at all; nor do these statistics include the crimes against the laws of the separate states. Certain definite groups are likewise omitted. Crimes committed by persons in the army and the navy, crimes against the tax laws and finally crimes against forestry laws are separately compiled. All countries have peculiarities of this sort; and it is not too much to say that the reader's inevitable impression will be that it is at the present time impossible to obtain a comprehensive survey of the crimes of any one nation.

While this number is largely given over to the details of organization, it includes several tables of crimes, some of which yield information of considerable value. The statistics of felonies and misdemeanors against the laws of the Empire go back to the year 1882. During the period which has followed, there has been a change in the make-up of this criminal budget. Crimes against the person now constitute a larger per cent of the total than they did in the eighties and early nineties. On the other hand, crimes against property and crimes committed while in office have followed the contrary course of development. Considering all crimes together, there has been an absolute decrease in proportion to population since the year 1894, largely due, however, to the falling off in the crimes against property.

The influence of the seasons on crimes is touched upon. Crimes against the person occur more frequently during the months of May, June, July, August, and September, while crimes against property are more likely to take place during the months of October, November, December, January, and February. March and April are the best months from the point of view of security. Dr. von Mayr does not attempt to specify what these influences

are which come with the change in seasons. They are complex, and he is certain that they do exist.

As interesting a table as any which the author presents is the one relating to the probability of discharge. This, he shows, varies greatly for the different crimes. It is lowest for the crime of resistance to executive officials and for serious cases of larceny, and highest for the crimes of perjury, false swearing, and misrepresentation. The receiver of stolen goods also stands a fair chance of acquittal.

Dr. von Mayr's style is always a test of the linguistic ability of the foreigner. It is no doubt his scientific trend of mind that leads him to give most of his attention to the facts. The work would gain by a clearer presentation of these facts. It cannot, however, be denied that Dr. von Mayr has given us the best treatise on criminal statistics that there is. This number, as well as the second and third, is a mine of information, and will be used as a reference book by all who are interested in this branch of statistics.

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#### NEW BOOKS

CASTLE, C. S. *A statistical study of eminent women.* (New York: Science Press. 1913. Pp. 90. \$1.)

FORCHER, H. *Ueber die theoretischen Grundgedanken der Kriminalstatistik.* (Brünn: Irrgang. 1913. Pp. 46.)

FORCHER, H. *Die statistische Methode als selbständige Wissenschaft.* (Leipzig: Veit. 1913. Pp. vi, 365. 10 M.)

GIFFEN, R. *Statistics.* (London: Macmillan. 1913. Pp. xiii, 485. \$3.)

To be reviewed.

HICKMANN. *Atlas statistique, 1914.* (Paris: Haar & Steinhert. 1914. 5 fr.)

KAUFMANN, A. *Theorie und Methoden der Statistik. Ein Lehr- und Lesebuch für Studierende und Praktiker.* (Tübingen: Mohr. 1913. Pp. xii, 540. 16 M.)

The author is professor of statistics in the Frauenhochschule and Handelhochschule of St. Petersburg. The work is divided into two parts—a theoretical and a practical. In discussing the theoretical basis of statistical methods the author aims to appeal to the non-mathematical student and reader. This point of view will be of particular interest to American students, who have not generally